

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

CARLOS R. BLUE,

Plaintiff,

v.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/
CORIZON STAFF,

Defendant.

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No. 4:21-cv-00689-SRC

Memorandum and Order

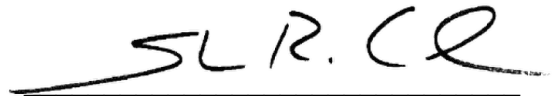
This matter comes before the Court on plaintiff Carlos R. Blue's second motion for appointment of counsel. Doc. 17. In civil cases, a pro se litigant does not have a constitutional or statutory right to appointed counsel. *Ward v. Smith*, 721 F.3d 940, 942 (8th Cir. 2013). Rather, a district court may appoint counsel in a civil case if the court is "convinced that an indigent plaintiff has stated a non-frivolous claim . . . and where the nature of the litigation is such that plaintiff as well as the court will benefit from the assistance of counsel." *Patterson v. Kelley*, 902 F.3d 845, 850 (8th Cir. 2018). When determining whether to appoint counsel for an indigent litigant, a court considers relevant factors such as the complexity of the case, the ability of the pro se litigant to investigate the facts, the existence of conflicting testimony, and the ability of the pro se litigant to present his or her claim. *Phillips v. Jasper Cty. Jail*, 437 F.3d 791, 794 (8th Cir. 2006).

After reviewing these factors, the Court finds that the appointment of counsel is not warranted at this time. Plaintiff has demonstrated, at this point, that he can adequately present his claims to the Court. Additionally, neither the factual nor the legal issues in this case appear to be complex. The Court will entertain future motions for appointment of counsel as the case

progresses.

Accordingly, the Court denies without prejudice plaintiff's [17] Motion for Reconsideration for Appointment of Counsel.

Dated this 25th day of February 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SLR. CLARK", written over a horizontal line.

STEPHEN R. CLARK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE